



## It's All About People

I originally moved the launch date for this issue after the Ukulele World Congress. Mike Hater from Mainland Ukes hosted the event again this year and in spite of the weather, those present had a lot of fun.

**ukulele player** had originally planned to attend and cover the event, but, we didn't attempt it when weather reports, for the one day that we could be there, were calling for either thunder-storms or severe thunder-storms the entire day.

As it turns out, the weather was not as bad as predicted. There was rain, but, there were no signs of severe weather, and no reports of vehicles getting stuck in mud in "the field" on Mike's farm.

You'll find many posts, pictures, and videos of the event on the PoHo section of Ukulele Underground (see the section for "general discussion" at the bottom of the forum lists).

We're sorry that we didn't plan for foul weather and decided to stay home. That was a mistake we won't repeat next year.

This issue brings you an interview with "Uncle Elvis", Mike Hind. If you want a taste of "E's" musical performances, search YouTube for "Sexy and I Know IT" and "Uncle Elvis" and you should be able to find it. Check the link in the Up & Coming artist article.

Also in this issue, we have a special feature on the history of KoAloha ukuleles, not the company (we've done that already), their instruments.

There are lots of pictures from the factory and early ukes. You'll see the evolution of KoAloha's product line from the very beginning to the present day. Thanks to Paul Okami for sending me the pictures and also answering all our questions about the evolution of their beautiful ukuleles.

We have a review of a new CD from Noel Tardy and Kate McLennan. They call themselves "Spirit Runners" and the CD is titled "Choose Love."

The collection is dedicated to Cancer Survivors and those fighting that battle right now. Both artists are cancer survivors. So am I.

A long time ago, I posted a little information on the different woods used commonly in the production of ukuleles and guitar and the subtle nuances of the tone they produce when all else is the same. I have added that information to this issue.

If you have not read it before, I hope it helps when you are considering a new instrument and you want to know if it will meet your expectations. There are other variables, of course, but, questions about tone-woods are on every ukulele and guitar forum. So, I hope you find the information useful.

It's all about making music.

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## Uncle Elvis

I have been around the music business for a long count of years. In fact, just about my entire life. I was raised in a family of professional musicians, singers, and songwriters.

I have learned, over the years, that there are singers and musicians, and there are *entertainers*.

Not everyone can sing; and, musicians are a dime a dozen. Great entertainers are, indeed, rare.

If you have spent any time on Ukulele Underground, you may have seen the participant known as "Uncle Elvis" (a.k.a. Mike Hind).

Uncle Elvis, or "E" as he is sometimes called, tends to be the subject of many pictures and videos. You have to check out this video:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=WbyOWZquP1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=WbyOWZquP1s)

It's Uncle Elvis playing "I'm Sexy and I Know It" at Ukulele World Congress. There are several videos of this performance out there, but, this one has the introduction and the performance... And some

crowd noise, so, pardon the sound quality and enjoy the performance.

Taking the stage at UWC, Uncle Elvis is in for a surprise. Watch the change-up, enjoy the fun.

Uncle Elvis is one of the best loved performers who hangs out with the gang-- the "PoHos" at Ukulele Underground.

I wanted to meet with Uncle E at UWC, but, since my wife and I didn't make it there, we scheduled an interview via e-mail.

So, enjoy...

**Q:** Your stage name is "UncleElvis", what's your "real" name?

**A:** My real name is Mike Hind. Michael James Jonathan Hind, to be precise!

**Q:** How long have you used the stage name "Uncle Elvis"?

**A:** A while back I signed up for a local political blog and decided to use a pseudonym, hoping anonymity would offer some protection against possible attacks from those on the opposite side of the political spectrum. There was a guy,



many years ago, that went by "Uncle Elvis" when he wrote letters to the editor to Marvel Comics and I always liked his letters and the name.

My finely crafted disguise was pierced in seconds, however. Literally! Moments after my first post, I got an email from a friend saying "Nice post". Anonymity over, I decided to keep it, 'cuz I liked the sound of it. When I signed up for Ukulele Underground, I just used my usual handle. The rest is history!

**Q:** How long have you played ukulele?

**A:** I bought my first ukulele the last week of January, 2011, the week before my birthday, as a quirky, spur-of-the-moment present for myself... with my wife's permission!

**Q:** Did you play other instruments prior to ukulele? If so, do you still play them?

**A:** I didn't. Well... that's not quite true. I played the violin as a little kid... badly. That was 30 years prior. Does that count?





**Q:** Did you perform or sing in public prior to ukulele?

**A:** Yeah. I was in bands, as a front man/singer, throughout the 90s. Lots of high energy rock and punk music. It taught me a LOT about reading a crowd and how to be a performer and Entertainer.

**Q:** Did you have other musicians in your family growing up?

**A:** My grandfather, Percy, was an AMAZING musician. He was in love with music, playing, arranging and conducting his own orchestra when he was a

teenager and continuing throughout his life. He was working on writing out the charts to all the swing music of the 50s and 60s that never had scores when he passed. He was pretty awesome.

**Q:** Who are your musical influences?

**A:** Performance-wise, I gotta go with Louis Prima, Elvis Presley and Otis Redding. Musically, I'm pretty across-the-board. I'm enjoying all the Mumford bands out there at the moment, and I'm getting into some older folk stuff that everyone seems to know... 'cept for me!

**Q:** Do you have a favorite genre of music?

**A:** To be honest, I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for punk and ska.

**Q:** What are your thoughts about professionalism on stage (i.e. appearance, behavior, and attitude)?

**A:** For me, this is paramount.

I recently wrote on Facebook that my new style rule is this:

"Dress like you've just been cast as the new Doctor Who".

I'm finding this a good rule of thumb, as the "Dr. Who style" means dressing well... with a little quirk, which works well on stage. It also helps with confidence. If you can figure out your quirk, then have the courage to pull it off, you've got nothing to worry about on stage.

Having a persona on stage, complete with style choices, is essential. It shows a level of respect to the audience that gets returned. If you show up looking good, like you know what you're doing, people will believe you and respond to that.

The sole job of the entertainer is to entertain. Yes, there are many, many parts to it, but that's what it boils down to. One of the parts of that is: Making sure that the audience pays attention and responds well. You can't entertain without that. My on-stage persona has slowly, over the past few years, meshed with my personality and now I'm the same on stage as I am off: Overjoyed that I get to do the thing that I love the most in the world whenever I want!

**Q:** Tell us about the Flea-Bitten Dawgs... How did that gig come together?



**A:** I'm not a member of the Flea Bitten Dawgs, but I was on tour with them this winter on the Uncle Elvis And The Flea Bitten Dawgs Ukulele Road Trip. An AMAZING tour! They are incredible people and, if anyone gets the chance to see them, I highly recommend it!

**Q:** You gig as a solo artist, too. Which do you prefer?

**A:** I much prefer being a solo artist. My main focus is entertaining, rather than pure musicianship. I started playing way too late (41) for me to become a great musician with all the solos and fingerpicking and all that (plus, I'm WAY too lazy!), so I concentrate on song choice, vocals, humour, spontaneity and improvisation, with the music as the base that it all sits on.

**Q:** You are working on an album. When is it scheduled for release?

**A:** I've released the EP that will be used to fund the full album. It's called "This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things!" and is available at this website:

<http://uncleelvis.bandcamp.com>

I'm still writing the rest of the songs for the full CD... and having a blast doing it! I've fallen in love with writing! Most of what I'm coming up with isn't great, but I'm having fun finding the gold nuggets of something I like in the stream of "What the heck?" that's coming out of my brain.

**Q:** Will you be touring?

**A:** Sadly, as I'm not American, touring is a little difficult. The tour this winter had to be done for free, which is not financially viable. I'm thinking about trying to hop over to Europe, where I can work legally, and trying a small tour next year. The other problem is that, as I live in Bermuda, and we're very seasonal, the only time I can really tour is the winter. It's COLD!

**Q:** Are you planning on using YouTube to market yourself?

**A:** I have plans to revamp my YouTube channel with all new content, writing songs and recording them as incentive to keep writing and honing the craft... oh, my heavens. Did I just say honing the craft? Please accept my apologies!

**Q:** What's the biggest venue you've played thus far?

**A:** Beachfest, I guess. A yearly show held on Horseshoe beach with hundreds of scantily clad folks wandering around... sadly paying no attention to the ukulele player for the first two songs! They warmed up, though.

**Q:** How many ukes do you own?

**A:** Much to my wife's horror, about twenty-one or twenty-two. I've lost count! Many of them are loaned out to people who want to try the ukulele, but don't want to buy one.

**Q:** How many do you take on stage with you?

**A:** At the moment, I'm only using the Lanikai 8-string I got from Mim's Ukes. It's a workhorse and, because it's an 8-string, it sounds fuller and more accessible to an audience that's used to guitars.

**Q:** Do you have any favorites?

**A:** My favorite is my Kamaka soprano. It's a Gold Label, which apparently means it's pre-1969, so it's older than me! My other favorite is Sparrow, which I recently purchased from a friend. It's a custom from Celetano Woodworks and is BEAUTIFUL.

**Q:** Is it true that Jon Hughes is building you a uke?

**A:** Yes. He is very kindly making a ukulele for me - his first - as a thank you for designing the logo for his company, Wy'east Ukulele. It's even going to have some Bermuda Cedar on it!

**Q:** So, are there any goals or dreams you have musically that you can share with our readers?

**A:** My goal is to be able to do this - make music and entertain - for a living. My TRUE goal is to be good at it!

I'd also LOVE to be able to get on the festival circuit a little bit - if I can figure out the work permit thing - so that I can visit other ukulele players. I LOVE playing with other people and festivals are an amazing way to do that. I also improve leaps and bounds when I play with others, so that's another incentive.

# Fender Passport P-150®

I was looking for a lightweight PA system to use for gigs. I wanted something with enough power to be useful, but, would not over-do it. The Fender Passport P-150® is just the ticket.

The P-150 has three mic/line inputs and a stereo input channel as well. It is 150 WATTS of power and is made to accommodate speaker stands to get above the crowd.



Fender's Passport systems are self-storing and all clip together so that control panel and speakers can all be carried into the venue in one hand-- like a big suitcase.

I recently used mine at an outdoor private party. When I wasn't playing, I plugged a portable CD player into the stereo channel and it really rocked. Brittini Paiva sounded great at 150 watts.

To get more overhead on my mics and instruments, I use a Behringer UB1202 mixer. I found that it gives me a bit more control and I can EQ things a little better that way. Without the Behringer, the Passport is okay, but, with it, what a difference it makes!

Either way, the P-150 is not bad.



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## Ohana CKS-15E

When I received word from Steph at Ohana that she was sending me two ukuleles for review, I was excited to hear that one was the new slim-line model, the CKS-15E.

The CKS-15E is a solid mahogany instrument with a solid mahogany neck, an ivory binding, a rosewood fretboard, and a rosewood bridge. The nut and saddle are made of bone.

The neck is fast and sleek. It is carved in a shallow "C" shape that is very comfortable in my hand and is the perfect counter-balance for the slimline body profile. The frets are perfectly dressed and there are no sharp edges.

Ohana chose vintage-style geared tuners for this model. They are very lightweight and hold well. Tuning is easy. I clipped on a Planet Waves mini tuner and was playing in about thirty seconds. Once the uke is tuned, it stays in tune really well.

The uke came equipped with Aquila Nylgut strings. After the usual stretching and stabilization period, the uke was pleasant sounding. It has a sweet mellow voice and is a lot louder than I expected since the body is only 1 3/4 inches thick at the lower

bout. The body is slightly slimmer where the neck is connected.

There is always the possibility with a thin-bodied uke (or guitar, for that matter) that it will sound weak and tinny, that is not the case with this instrument. It sounds rich and full.

I took this ukulele to a meeting of the Central Ohio Ukulele Peeps (COUP) and they really loved it. Jeff (JukeJeff on the forums) commented that this uke sounded really sweet and mellow. He, too, noticed that the uke was much louder than he expected. Jeff has a lot of fine instruments, including two KoAloha ukes, a Pohaku uke, and a vintage Martin. He has played a lot of instruments and has a pretty good ear. It says something when someone like Jeff takes notice of a uke like this one.

### *The Performing Musician's Perspective...*

When it comes to stage performance, having a uke with a pickup is much better than having to plant yourself before a microphone and staying there. It makes for a dull show, even when the music is really great. I wanted to play this

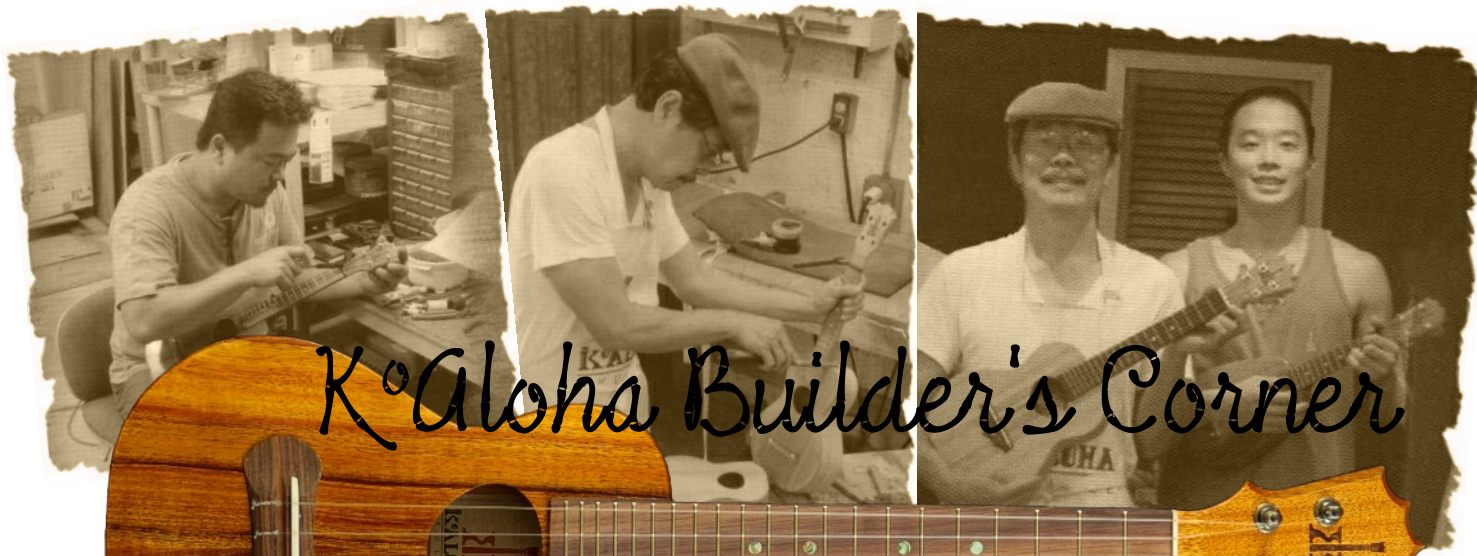


through an amplifier to hear the passive pickup in action. With a passive pickup, you have to rely on the mixing board to color the signal or adjust the tone. This uke is no exception. It needs more bottom-end. You'll get it from the amp (if it's a good one) or from the PA system.

In my case, I ran the instrument through the Kala Round-About and it was a little thin. I ran it through a Fender Frontman and it was still a bit thin. I ran it through the mixer and into a Fender Passport P-150® and it sounded fantastic!

For a performing musician, you won't have any problem is you have a decent PA or use a pre-amp like the LR-Baggs Di. You don't want to run this uke straight into a small amp. You need more midrange and low end.

The CKS-15E is a great, lightweight, solid-wood instrument. Ohana has a winner here. I'll be gigging with it, too.



# KoAloha Ukulele

## How A Start Up Became A Force In the Hawaiian Ukulele Market In Just 15 Years Time

KoAloha Ukulele, the name is synonymous with quality.

So how did a start-up musical instrument business become a major force in the world of Hawaiian ukulele in just fifteen years time? Their biggest competitor has been in business for over ninety years.

This feature is filled with factory pictures, and an interview with Paul Okami, son of the founder Alvin Okami-- the man who thought that making a little Hawaiian 'ukulele was "No big thing."

We did an interview on the history of KoAloha in a previous issue, but, this time around, the topic of discussion is not the company itself. It's not the great people who make KoAloha what it is. This time around, we

are discussing the KoAloha ukulele in all its incarnations.

From the "No Big Thing" ukulele to the first "full-sized" instruments, from the early experiments to the full production models, KoAloha ukes have been refined, tweaked, tuned, and refined some more.

KoAloha has been a leader in the industry. Innovation has been a goal from the very beginning. We'll discuss many of those innovations and why they are important. We'll talk about the creative process and how some of these innovations came to exist.

In the end, I hope you have a better understanding of how the Okami family views KoAloha, the company and its family of artisans. They are not factory

workers, they are artists, and musical instrument making is their art.

You don't have to be a luthier to appreciate the craftsmanship that goes into one of these fine instruments. Just play one and you will know what I mean. From every stroke of the finisher's sandpaper, to every sprayed finish, from the cut of every board to the seams that were lovingly glued together, the team of artists at KoAloha have worked to put a smile on your face and a song in your heart.







## The Very First K°Aloha Uke - "No Big Thing"



The ukulele above is the creation of "Papa KoAloha" himself, Alvin Okami. The shot on the left puts it in perspective. That is a nickel in the foreground. Drop some pocket change on the table and think about it.

Papa KoAloha actually crafted a fully playable uke with tuners that worked and if you look online, you'll find a video of him playing the instrument. Yes, believe it or not, it's real.





KoAloha ukuleles went through an evolutionary process. On the left are four early KoAloha models. You can see that these early ukes did not have the "crown" headstock of today's models. You'll notice, also, that early models were not all koa tops.

Experimentation and innovation has always been a part of KoAloha. It started with the company founder, Alvin "Papa" Okami and has been passed to his sons Alan and Paul.

Paul was behind the innovation of the "Super Soprano" uke-- a koa soprano uke with a tenor-scale neck.



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# On with the Interview...

**Q:** Your father started the business of building ukuleles when a friend suggested he do so. Can you give us a brief overview of that story (the No Small Thing Ukulele)?

**A:** My father started building ukulele in 1995. Our ukulele were always branded as KoAloha, but the business was called Precision Plastics. He owned and operated an acrylic fabrication shop, with products ranging from a line of housewares to custom displays. He started with miniature ukulele, but not ordinary small model replicas. Each ukulele was an accurately scaled down version, measuring 5" from the head to the bottom of the body. My brother, Alan, was with the company full time and I was about to graduate high school.

**Q:** So, KoAloha then moved up

to full-sized ukes?

**A:** I graduated high school in 1996 and enrolled at UH Manoa. I spent my time between classes here at the shop and the rest of my day in school. This was pretty grueling, leaving me no time to study. My father had begun making "normal" sized ukulele in the meantime and he and my brother worked as a duo. I stayed on the acrylic fabrication side, but was slowly pulled into making ukulele. I talked to my brother and father and told them that I would quit school and join them full time, if we did only ukulele. Since then, we have left the plastic scene and never looked back.

**Q:** Was the name KoAloha at that time?

**A:** Although the name of the

business license was Precision Plastics, we have been KoAloha since the first instrument. One way to break our name down is to take 'koa' and combine it with 'aloha.' However, Hawaiian words and phrases often contain a deeper meaning, called 'kaona.' 'Kou' is translated as 'your,' while 'aloha' is translated as 'love.' Our greatest joy is when we hear that the music played through our instruments has made someone's day better.

**Q:** Were the first ukes koa?

**A:** Our ukulele have always been made from koa, including the miniatures.

**Q:** What sizes were offered in the beginning?

**A:** Our original full sized instruments began with the standard or soprano. We added a concert later in 1996 and started tenors in 2001.



*Super-Soprano*



*Super-Concert*



*Pineapple Sunday*



**Q:** Did you ever produce ukuleles of other woods in the early years (mahogany, mango, anything like that)?

**A:** While our original production instruments were made from koa, we did a lot of experimentation in our early years. We have made and released mahogany, mango, and spruce tops to name a few. I don't know who has them, but these instruments are rare and will definitely become collector's items.

**Q:** When did you start making Sapele necks?

**A:** We used sapele for a short time, during our transition to CNC shaped necks. We began by contracting our standard and concert necks, but kept the production of tenor necks in house. This was in 2001. Before that, all of our necks were made from start to finish in the shop, all koa construction.

**Q:** How did the Unibrace come to be? What was used before that?

**A:** Prior to the unibrace, we followed a more traditional pattern, with separated flat bracings supporting the face and back of the ukulele. While examining older ukulele that friends and family would bring by, we noticed that the middle brace is often a common point of failure. This is due to the wood expanding and contracting over time, combined with aging glue, and the vibration of the strings. There isn't much you can do

against time, so we looked for a way around the problem. Since we couldn't ask people to store their instruments in a sealed room and never play them, we came up with the unibrace. While it won't last forever, we successfully eliminated the point of failure, which is typically a small glue joint to the side. We have done other experiments as well, but the unibrace is what we settled on as the best solution.

**Q:** The five-point crown headstock is so unique, what was the inspiration behind that and how did it come to be?

**A:** My father designed both generations of our head stock. He started with a somewhat generic three point crown, which you can still see in our logo. I can't speak for dad, but the ideas come to him and he follows through.

**Q:** When was the "Musubi" soundhole created and what shapes were used prior to that?

**A:** KoAloha began with the standard circular sound hole, but we wanted something that would clearly be identified with our brand. We used an oval for a brief period of time, but decided to create something entirely new. At the time, my cousin Todd was working for us, and he was tasked with creating the new sound hole design. We tried a number of designs over a period of a month, but none of them felt right. We were ready to go back to the circle, then Todd came up with the "musubi" hole. We

tried it out and it looked and sounded great, so we stuck with it since.

**Q:** Over the years, you have used several different tuners. What different tuners were used and when?

**A:** We started with Schaller tuners in 1995, then switched to Grover in the early 2000's. The Euro and strengthening of the Deutsche Mark affected our price dramatically. We stayed with Grover for a while, until we started working directly with a Taiwanese manufacturer, creating our own custom tuners in 2010.

**Q:** When did you first start making Pikake, square-cut necks?

**A:** I actually don't know the exact date for this one. It was sometime soon after we introduced the Pikake line. We've done so many changes, both big and small, it's hard to keep an accurate timeline of them all.

**Q:** KoAloha bridges have changed several times, too, can you give us a time-line of sorts? What was used over the years and when?

**A:** Sorry, but this question is even harder than the Pikake one. We have redesigned our bridge more than any other part of the ukulele. Any time we change the bridge design, it is usually driven by form and function. The bridges for our standard and concert sizes stayed as a knotted tie style for a long time,

although the intricacies of design have been different across the generations. Our most current iteration has the same tie bar style as our tenors.

As far as tenors go, the original bridges were a tie through the face style with a crown shape. This went through several changes as well, and eventually became an aggressive crown shaped bridge with a tie bar. These were extremely difficult to make and they were hard to glue down with a solid bond. Although they are a fan favorite, we switched to the bow tie style bridges, which was previously available only on the D-VI and custom built instruments. Our current tenor bridge is a simple rectangular design, with feathered edges.

One good way to track the changes in our instruments is to look at the head block inside the sound hole. We don't serialize or track our ukulele individually, but we do date each one with the month and year of production.

**Q:** Did you ever use anything for saddles and nuts other than "Tusq"? If so, what and when?

**A:** Originally, we used ebony for the standards and concertos, while we used bone for our tenors. I was turned on to Tusq by a fellow builder and dear friend of mine, Aaron Oya. I met up with them at the NAMM show and I was impressed with their product and service. We did a lot of evaluations across many runs of ukulele. While the

ebony and bone have a unique natural tone, the Tusq was ultimately more consistent. After about two months of testing, we decided to make the change and go with Tusq across our entire lineup. We had custom molds made, specially for our instruments.

**Q:** When did you start using CNC shaped necks? What do you feel are the benefits with CNC manufacturing?

**A:** We began using CNC shaped necks in 2001. I remember the day that the first boxes came in. This was like Christmas and New Year's rolled into one. Before we were in agreement, my father, brother, and I fought for a long time. Dad was in support of using CNC technology to enhance production, while my brother and I were staunch in remaining all hand made. This was a major turning point for KoAloha. While we can hand shape a neck in house quicker than a CNC, it requires manpower. People get sick, have bad days, and quit or get fired. The benefit of outsourcing is a steady supply of necks that are almost ready to use in assembly.

One thing I would like to point out is that the CNC shaped necks are identical, but not ready to use. We go through a process of jointing the fret board gluing surface, then trimming the bottom of the heel. The process that the CNC takes over is the rough shaping. The final shape is still done by hand, after the instruments are assembled. They sure do look

perfect coming out of the box, though!

**Q:** KoAlana ukes are now available again. How did that whole program start?

**A:** The KoAlana line is my brother's baby. There were many reasons why we decided to pursue the entry level market. A big factor was having an instrument that is a part of our product family that would allow us to do more volume with our charitable contributions. We can donate a box of KoAlanas for the cost of one KoAloha. The other reasons, were, of course, business. We wanted people to be able to graduate from our brand to our brand, having representation in both segments of the market. No other major manufacturer had an entry level brand at the time.

**Q:** There were issues at first and those have been resolved. Have the new KoAlanas been well-received?

**A:** The first order that came in was terrific. We were excited and hot to trot. Unfortunately, dealing with China is not that simple. Quality was hit and miss. Bad shipments were very bad. We tried our best to work with our contract factory, but they were not able to deliver the kind of quality that we needed. After a last run of good faith, we decided to pull the line.

The new KoAlanas come from Thailand, where we work directly with the factory owners. While we have no financial interest in the facility, we are very close

friends and were able to help them with the operations from the ground up. The Thai factory is a virtual clone of our own shop. The new KoAlanas were very well received. They came in at a higher price point, but there is no comparison in quality to the older generation.

Unfortunately, we did have some quality issues with the new instruments, due to the weather conditions in Thailand. The issues have been resolved and we are ready to roll again. This is a surprise, but KoAlanas are on hold again. I can't say any more than that for now.

**Q:** They are available in Soprano and Concert, are there any plans to add tenor ukes to that product line?

**A:** We are almost starting anew with the current KoAlana line. If there is a demand, we will definitely consider producing a tenor sized model.

**Q:** I have never seen a KoAloha baritone uke. How you thought about producing one?

**A:** Simple answer yes. Heh heh. I actually wanted to release a baritone several years ago, but I have never had the time to build a prototype. I'm waiting for a few months of time when I can properly research and experiment. Due to it's size and tuning, the baritone is the most different of all the ukulele. I could probably whip something up, but I want to do it right.

We won't publicly release a baritone until I'm confident in

our ability to produce a great product.

**Q:** Tell us about the Pineapple Sunday, the Sceptre, and the Juke-A-Lele models and how they came to be. What was the inspiration and story behind each?

**A:** The Pineapple Sunday, Sceptre, and Juke are the first three instruments in my father's signature line. He plans to release a total of seven models before he retires. We know he'll never retire, so don't hold your breath for the next model(s). Pop's signature line are custom instruments, built to his specs. They carry the same level of craftsmanship and attention to detail that our black label instruments do, but the format is predetermined. Pops had a vision on a Sunday for the Pineapple, thus Pineapple Sunday. The Sceptre represents a king's scepter, while the Juke represents his love for our country.

**Q:** I see a new model, the "Noah" 3/4 size uke. Who designed it and what was the inspiration behind it?

**A:** One of our artists and dear friends asked me to build a couple of keiki, or children's sized ukulele for his daughter and for his friend's child. I prototyped and build a run of seven instruments and decided to name the model after my own son, Noah. I didn't plan on adding it to our lineup, but it generated quite a buzz and the instrument was surprisingly popular. Unlike most sopraninos,

our Noah was designed to be tuned to standard tuning, but it can be tuned higher, if thinner gauge strings are used.

**Q:** So, what lies ahead? Are there any future models being kicked around a bit that you can share with us?

**A:** Well, I can't be too specific but Pops is always working on something new. It's been a while since he's released a signature model. Sometimes even I don't know what he's thinking of next. In this case, I actually don't. As far as the shop goes, the past few years have been full of change. We have steadily upped and stabilized production, but haven't added too many new models. We have been doing a lot of internal restructuring to prepare for the future.

I hear that when the baritone comes out, there will be a D-VI style version following not far behind. Smaller than a parlor guitar, but not quite an ukulele. Hmmmm...

**Q:** If you can think of anything you'd like to add --say, the philosophy behind the company and the way it has grown, the spirit of Aloha and the shaping of your whole customer service philosophy, feel free to elaborate on it.

**A:** We started as a family business and I hope we will never stray from those values. We have been through many ups and downs and I expect that we will always have challenges, but we will always



do our best and treat people with aloha. KoAloha is a company based on relationships. Relationships with each other here at work, with our customers, and friends. While making ukulele is dear to our hearts, nothing is more important than the lives and stories that we have been a part of so far. As much as we may expand and change, I hope we never change. I would like to say a truly heart felt mahalo to all the people who have supported us through the years.

-----



From the very beginning, KoAloha put a lot of effort into customer service. From the "Better than the Weather" warranty, to working their hardest to make the customer happy, they have gone the extra mile.

It is only a matter of time before all boutique musical instrument makers and smaller factories begin using CNC machines and the like to enhance productivity and increase profitability.

KoAloha's innovations and adaptation of modern manufacturing methods shows that they are looking to the future with anticipation.

From day one, they have been innovative and they are still looking at the road ahead. They are constantly improving, not resting comfortably on the "Hawaiian Ukulele Tradition."

Many of their designs are far from traditional. The Pineapple





Sunday and the "Sceptre" are two examples of how KoAloha has broken with tradition. Their fans love those innovative designs. They are beautiful and bold.

A lot of ukulele makers in the Hawaiian islands follow traditional designs and don't stray far from them, except in the use of inlays or the shape of headstocks.

There is a sense that ukuleles from Hawaii sound "traditional" and there is an expectation that they should all sound pretty close to the same.

Bucking with tradition, the Pineapple Sunday has a distinct tone-- unlike any other ukulele I have ever heard. If you have listened to any recordings of Victoria Vox you have heard a Pineapple Sunday.

I'd like to thank Paul Okami for taking the time to answer our questions and also for providing photographs from the factory for this feature. You'll see a mix of old and new designs in the images.

Paul provided more than you see here, but, due to space restrictions, I picked the ones that you see in the issue and left a few for another day, perhaps.

If you have not had a chance to play a KoAloha ukulele, you owe it to yourself to play one. If you can test-drive a Pineapple Sunday, that's even better.

KoAloha ukuleles sound as good as they look.



*A finished body waiting for a neck.*



*Ukes awaiting finishing touches.*



*Tuning the "Sound Board" can only be done by hand.*

# Audio Booth

When it comes to audio recordings, I am still of the school that one-inch tape analog recording machines were about the best we've ever had. Not much rivals the warmth and tone of those old studio tape recorders.

If you want your digital recordings to have more warmth, a sure-fire way of getting those results is to build a recording tent.

I saw a recording booth made from the ground up with economy and efficiency in mind. It featured a frame made of two-inch drain-pipe. The "walls" were heavy blankets with tubes sewn in the top that were made to accommodate the top tubes of the recording booth frame. The blankets were heavy and went from floor to ceiling (almost). The booth had a top on it that was made of the same material as the walls.

Inside the "booth" (which resembled a tent), there was a table and a simple stool. There were mics on stands and cables running to a mixer and digital recorder on the table.

The booth was rather small and it seemed stuffy inside, but, it deadened sound nicely.

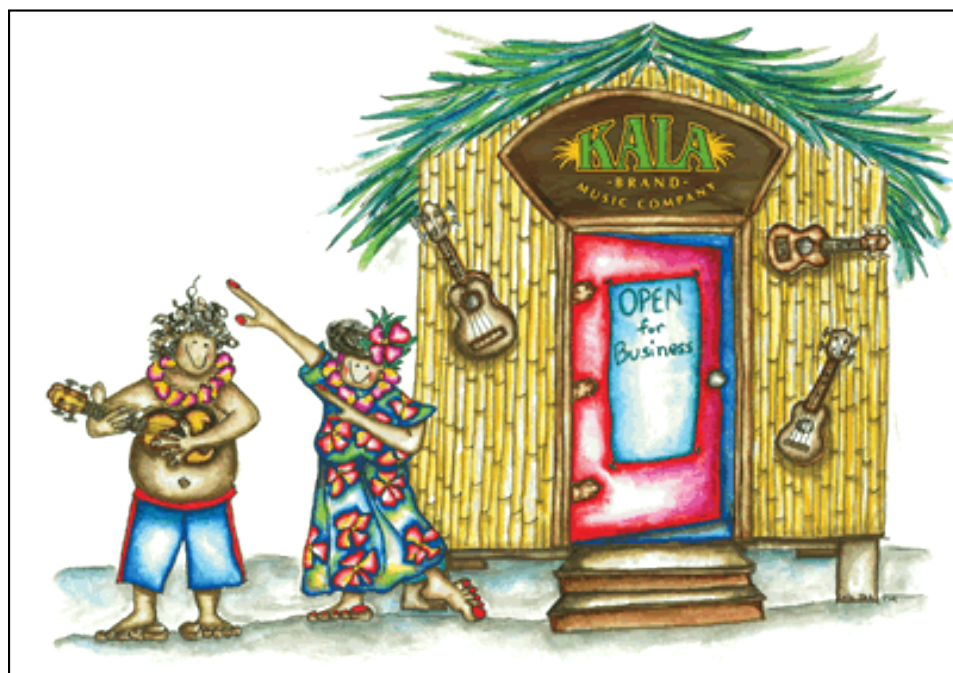
Recordings made in the booth had no outside noise that I could hear. They were pretty warm, thanks to the sound absorption of the blankets. I was pretty impressed with the setup.



## Got Uke?



You can find Kala Ukuleles at  
[www.ukeladymusic.com](http://www.ukeladymusic.com)

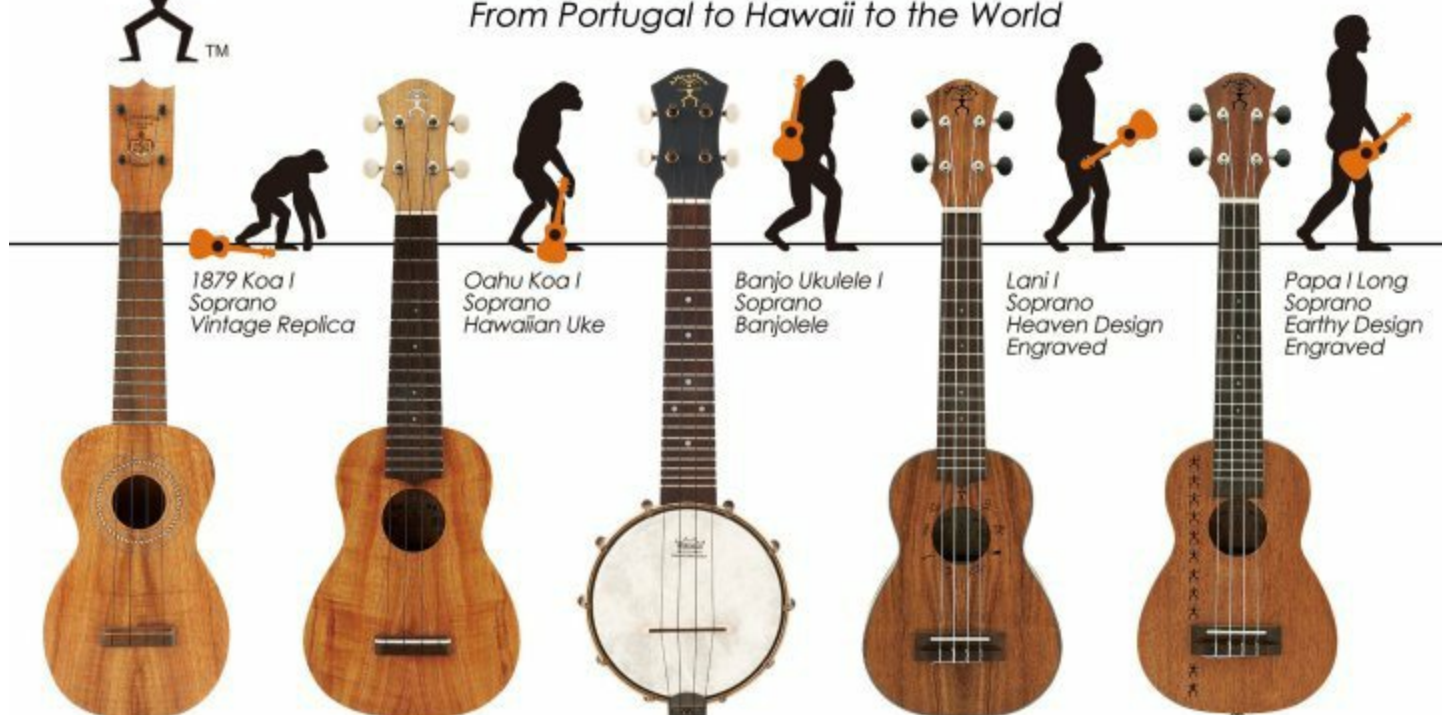






## Evolution of Ukulele

From Portugal to Hawaii to the World



[http://www.anuenue-uke.com/html\\_version/#frame\\_index](http://www.anuenue-uke.com/html_version/#frame_index)



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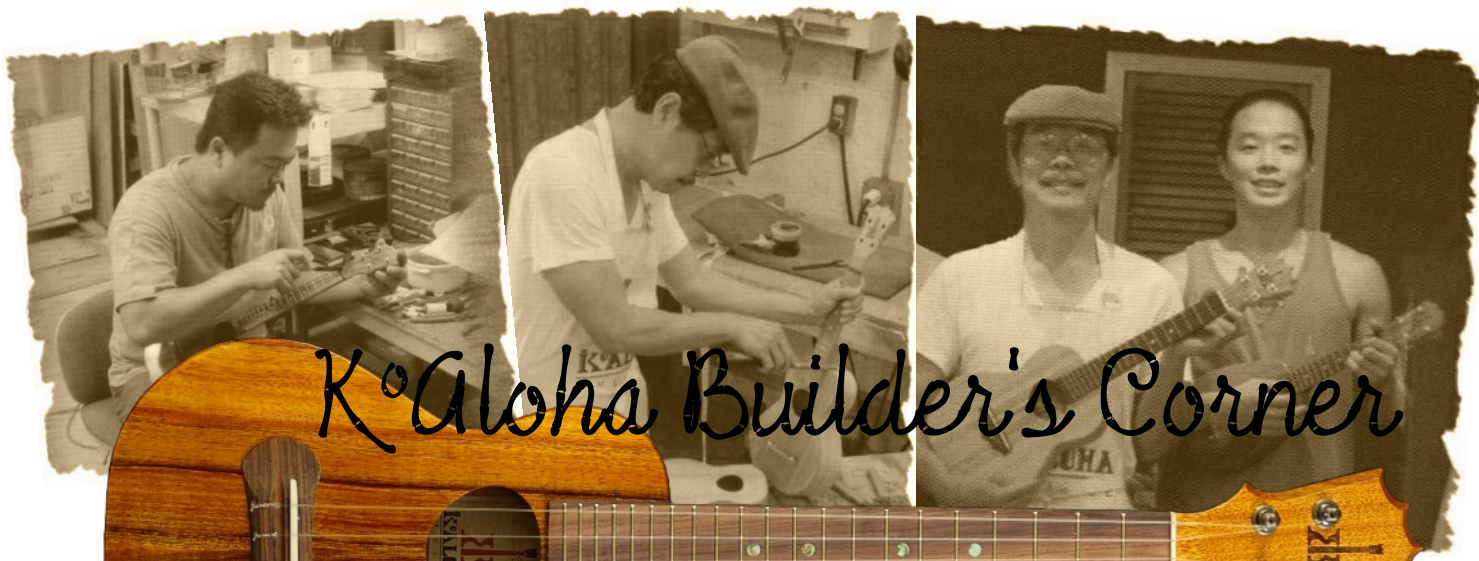




<http://mainlandukes.com/>

A Part of the American Landscape





## The K°Aloha Uke Story

Send your questions via email:  
[Uke-maker@tricornpublications.com](mailto:Uke-maker@tricornpublications.com)

Rather than the usual Question and Answer feature in this issue, we are featuring the "history" of K°Aloha Ukuleles and an interview with Paul Okami, Papa K°Aloha's son, himself a custom ukulele builder. Paul pretty much runs the production side of K°Aloha.

Check out the K°Aloha Ukulele feature beginning on page 8 of this issue. We have lots of factory pictures and the "uke that started it all" is one of them.

If you have questions about ukulele construction, setup, tone-woods, we'll have our regular feature in the next issue.

Aloha



## Choose Love Spirit Runners

"Spirit Runners" is the name of musical duo Noel Tardy and Kate McLennan. Noel owns and operates Uke Lady Music.

This CD is Spirit Runners' first. Titled "Choose Love", it is dedicated to cancer survivors. Here is the lineup:

1. Love Lifted Me
2. Choose Love
3. Living by the Numbers
4. Life Is A Gift
5. Looking Over the Sea
6. 59th Street Bridge Song
7. Body
8. Ka Pua E
9. Spirit Calls
10. Amazing Grace/Precious Lord
11. Naked Love
12. Expect A Miracle

"Love Lifted Me" written by Smith, Smith, Rowe, and Ray Stevens. This song is a classic. This rendition features nice backup vocals. Nice harmonies.

"Choose Love" is a Kate McLennan original tune. It is dedicated to the memory of Jo Bess Jennings. The song features a custom tenor uke tuned DGBE and a baritone.

"Living by the Numbers" Kate and Noel collaborated in this tune. Both ladies sing on this song. If you have been a cancer patient, you know the

meaning of this song.

"Life Is A Gift" is another original by Kate McLennan. Yes, life is a gift and so many things people take for granted are a blessing. This song is a celebration of the little things.

"Looking Over the Sea" is another song written by Kate. Nice harmonies. This song is silky and soothing.

"59th Street Bridge Song" (Feelin' Groovy) by Simon and Garfunkle was popular in its day. Lots of young people have never heard it. I have played it many times myself. This is a different tempo than the original.

"Body" is another Kate tune. Noel sings backup. This song has a bluesy feeling to it-- sort of a country honky-tonk blues. All it needs is a little bit of piano to give it that genuine honky-tonk vibe.

"Ka Pua E" Makaha Sons Ni 'ihau tune. It is a little Hawaiian number. I am not sure who should get the writing credit.

"Spirit Calls" is another Kate tune. This song is a philosophical song about life, love, and survival.



This song is mellow and dreamy.

"Amazing Grace/Precious Lord" is a medley of two classic Spiritual songs.

"Naked Love" is another Kate tune. This song features Noel on a five string Kanile'a Super-Concert and a bass uke.

"Expect A Miracle" is the last tune on this album and, once again, it was written by Kate.

This collections of songs was written to inspire people who either have fought cancer and won or are currently in the fight. May they never give up hope.

It was also dedicated to the memory of loved-ones whose bravely fought that same battle and lost it. May they never be forgotten.

As a cancer survivor myself, I appreciate life and take nothing for granted. Every single day is a blessing. Every day people survive cancer and every day, people are fighting this battle. If you need encouragement, perhaps you will find it here. Don't forget to tell the people you love what they mean to you. Blessings...



If you didn't know, MusicGuyMic is still in business. You can find him on the forum at Ukulele Underground.

Contact MGM via the forum and you can order ukuleles from him. He still keeps a pretty good stock on hand and still provides top-notch service.

Tell him you saw this little bit of information in **ukulele player**.

MGM is a good guy and he'll treat you right.

~Mickey Maguire  
**ukulele player**





# Ukulele Club Listings...

If you would like to list your club here, submit contact information at this website:

[http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke\\_player.htm](http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_player.htm)  
 or e-mail me at this address:  
[mickey@tricornpublications.com](mailto:mickey@tricornpublications.com)  
 We will add you to our list.

## USA

### Arizona

**Scottsdale Strummers, Scottsdale AZ**, Contact Pat McInnis  
 weekly daytime meeting, monthly evening meeting  
 email: [pat@azukulele.com](mailto:pat@azukulele.com)  
 website: [azukulele.com](http://azukulele.com)

#### Tucson Ukesters

Tucson, AZ Meet weekly - usually on Monday afternoon  
 Contact: Kristin Keller  
[twoazin@comcast.net](mailto:twoazin@comcast.net)

#### The Tucson Ukesters - performance group

Michael Crownhart - Group leader  
 Contact: [AzRedShoe@juno.com](mailto:AzRedShoe@juno.com)

#### Phoenix Ukulele Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/The-Phoenix-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/>  
 4th Thursday at Dolce Video Coffee Bar  
 1025 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85014  
 Contact: Carolyn Sechler [carolyn@azcpa.com](mailto:carolyn@azcpa.com)

#### Phoenix Ukulele Meetup

Meeting weekly on Tuesday Nights at Cabin Coffee  
 Web site: <http://www.meetup.com/The-Phoenix-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/>  
 Email: [Tom@Kanikapila.us](mailto:Tom@Kanikapila.us)

#### Tucson Ukulele Meetup

First Friday and third Sunday each month,  
 weekly gatherings of smaller practice groups.  
<http://www.meetup.com/Tucson-Ukulele-Meetup/>



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You can check out the complete line of Serif Software at this URL:

<http://www.serif.com/>

# Ukulele Clubs continued

## California

### Fresno Area

[www.valleyukes.blogspot.com](http://www.valleyukes.blogspot.com)

### Nuked Ukes

We are in Auburn California. Welcoming players from all levels.

contact: Loyce Smallwood

[loy@foothill.net](mailto:loy@foothill.net)

[www.kahi.com/loyce'sblog](http://www.kahi.com/loyce'sblog)

### Ukulele Society of America

Contact: Richard Douglas

(760) 458-6656

300 Carlsbad Village Dr.

Carlsbad CA, 92008

[http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukulele\\_society\\_of\\_america](http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukulele_society_of_america)

### Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz

[www.ukuleleclub.com](http://www.ukuleleclub.com)

One of the Largest Ukulele clubs in America! Usually meets every third thursday at Bocci's celler in Santa Cruz, but check the website, cause it sometimes changes. Or email [Andy@cruzio.com](mailto:Andy@cruzio.com) for club information.

### Ukulele University

New uke club in the Sacramento, CA. Area. Meet 1st Thursday eve monthly

email: [stuherreid@yahoo.com](mailto:stuherreid@yahoo.com)

website: [www.ukeuniversity.com](http://www.ukeuniversity.com)

### San Jose Ukulele Club

Every second and fourth Tuesday in the month.

Beginner session at 6:30 p.m. Regular meeting from 7 to 9 p.m

We meet at the Fresh Choice Restaurant in the Almaden Plaza, at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road, just off Hwy 85.

e-mail: [sanjoseukeclub@gmail.com](mailto:sanjoseukeclub@gmail.com)

### San Diego Ukulele Meetup Group

<http://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Ukulele-Meetup-Group/>

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Lion Coffee downtown @ 6:30pm.

### "Ukulele Jam" hosted by Shirley Orlando.

Meets Thursday evenings at 6:30. All levels welcome. Music is contemporary, from tin pan alley to the beach boys, etc.

16852 Gothard St Huntington Beach CA 92647.

[shirthings@aol.com](mailto:shirthings@aol.com) or [encantada@cox.net](mailto:encantada@cox.net)

### Petalukes, Petaluma, CA

Meet every Thursday night, other times too. All levels welcome, music provided

Contact: [petaluke@comcast.net](mailto:petaluke@comcast.net)

website: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluke/>

### High Desert Ukulele Club, Antelope Valley, Ca



# Ukulele Clubs continued

[highdesertukuleleclub.com](http://highdesertukuleleclub.com) or email [highdesertukuleleclub@gmail.com](mailto:highdesertukuleleclub@gmail.com)

## **Canogahana Players**

every second and fourth Sunday, Noon to 2PM  
Guitar Merchant 7503 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Canoga Park, CA

## **The Pluckin' Strummers - A Los Angeles Ukulele Club**

<http://pluckinstrummers.wordpress.com/>

Meet: 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month. 10:00–Noon (unless otherwise stated).  
Christ Church Griffith Park, Atwater Village 3852 Edenhurst, Los Angeles, CA

## **Turlock Uke Jamz, Turlock, CA**

We meet the second Saturday of each month.  
Details at: [www.turlockukejamz.org](http://www.turlockukejamz.org)

## **Palm Desert Strummers** (Palm Springs area, California) Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

Joslyn Senior Center, Palm Desert (non-seniors welcome!)

Contact: Wendy Alderson: [UkuleleWahine@yahoo.com](mailto:UkuleleWahine@yahoo.com)

Highland Pickers (Strummers, Players and Singers), meet Wednesday mornings  
at 11am in the Highland Senior Center, Highland, CA.

## **Colorado**

The **Denver Uke Community** has been bringing Ukemaniacs together since 2005, We meet each month on the third Saturday at Swallow Hill Music Association at 10:30am. All skill levels from beginner to "Wow that person ROCKS the Ukulele", we also play a wide range of music, from country, tin pan alley, Hawaiian.

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/UkuleleCommunityDenver/>

## **fortUKE @ Everyday Joe's**

144 South Mason, Fort Collins, Colorado

We meet the first Saturday of each month at Everyday Joe's Coffee House, 9:30 AM till about noon. Group strum, all abilities welcome.

## **Connecticut**

### **The KookeeUkies Ukulele Club of Southern Connecticut**

Visit our website on [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) for meetup dates and times.

<http://www.meetup.com/The-Ukulele-Club-of-Southern-Connecticut-The-KookeeUkies/>

### **Ukulele Club and The Four Strings Ukulele Band of Southern Connecticut,**

<http://www.orgsites.com/ct/uke-club/index.html>

[petejhnsn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petejhnsn@sbcglobal.net)

## **Florida**

### **Tampa Bay Ukulele Society**

[www.meetup.com/tampabayukes](http://www.meetup.com/tampabayukes)

Check out the website for scheduled "meetups". This groups is very active.



# Ukulele Clubs continued

## Florida Ukulele Network

[www.FloridaUkuleleNetwork.org](http://www.FloridaUkuleleNetwork.org)

F.U.N. has meet-up groups in Broward, Palm Beach, and the Space Coast

## Georgia

Da Kine Ukers, we meet every Thursday nights from 6:30 - 8:30

pm. Location: American Legion Post 251, 2760 Duluth Hwy. (120), Duluth, GA.

Contact: Wally Choi, 517 Paden Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Email: [wchoialoha@msn.com](mailto:wchoialoha@msn.com)

## Hawaii

[UkuleleClubofKona.com](http://UkuleleClubofKona.com)

meets Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm

Keauhou Shopping Center, 7 miles south of Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

## Illinois

CHUG - CHicago Ukulele Group

We have our monthly Chicago Uke Jam the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Please contact Henry at [Henriness@gmail.com](mailto:Henriness@gmail.com)

Oak Park Ukulele Meetup Group aka The Harrison Street Ukulele Players.

Every 3rd Thursday, 6pm-8pm @ Wonderwall Music Shoppe & Emporium

325 Harrison St, Oak Park IL 60304

All other Thursdays, 7pm-9pm @ Eastgate Cafe, 102 Harrison Street Oak Park

Website: [www.ukulele.meetup.com/89](http://www.ukulele.meetup.com/89) contact: [hsup2008@gmail.com](mailto:hsup2008@gmail.com)

Northwest suburbs of Illinois (Carpentersville).

Our contact email is [nwiukes@gmail.com](mailto:nwiukes@gmail.com)

## Kansas

Kansas City Ukesters

<http://www.kcuke.com>

## Kentucky

Kentucky Ukes

meeting the fourth Sunday of every month

[KentuckianaUkes@yahoo.com](mailto:KentuckianaUkes@yahoo.com)

## Maine

Ukulele Club of Brunswick (strummin' away in Midcoast Maine)

Usually meeting the first and third Thursday of the month; all welcome.

<http://ukesofbrunswick.weebly.com/index.html>

## Michigan

# Ukulele Clubs continued

## **Ukulele Jam, 4th Tuesday night of the Month Oz's**

Music Ann Arbor MI. contact: jerryefmally@yahoo.com

## **Lansing Area Ukulele Group**

Meets once per month: Sir Pizza 201 East Grand River Lansing, MI 48906

Yahoo Group: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/lansingukesgroup>

Facebook: [tinyurl.com/lansingukes](http://tinyurl.com/lansingukes)

Email (Ben Hassenger): [lansingukes@gmail.com](mailto:lansingukes@gmail.com)

## **Club: Motor City Ukes**

second Tuesday of the month in Farmington, MI. Details on [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

## **Minnesota**

Two Harbors Ukulele Group (THUG), Two Harbors MN.

Email: [al@agatebaymusic.com](mailto:al@agatebaymusic.com)

StrumMn ukulele players

<http://strummn.shutterfly.com/>

## **Nebraska Ukulele Strummers**

[4stringsofswing@gmail.com](mailto:4stringsofswing@gmail.com)

## **Nevada**

### **The Ukulele Club of Las Vegas**

[www.meetup.com/ukulele-club-of-las-vegas](http://www.meetup.com/ukulele-club-of-las-vegas)

### **"Uke Nights in Reno"**

Email: [Rich@PlayUke.net](mailto:Rich@PlayUke.net)

Local Uke gathering in Reno, NV

## **New Mexico**

### **The High Desert Sand Fleas**

Meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at the

Albuquerque Press Club [6pm - 9pm]

2101 Highland Park Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico - USA

contact: Stephen Hunt via email: [hdsfgcea@gmail.com](mailto:hdsfgcea@gmail.com).

<http://sites.google.com/site/hdsfgcea/>

## **New York**

### **Ukulele Club of Potsdam (New York)**

meet-up every other Friday at 5PM at Tim's Comic & Game, 6 Main Street

contact: Tim Connolly [tim@discoverpotsdam.com](mailto:tim@discoverpotsdam.com) call: (315) 268-1598.

Loaner ukes available. Bring your uke and leave your cares at home!

### **The Lower Westchester Ukulele Club, Westchester County, New York**

<http://lowerwestchesterukuleleclub.webstarts.com/>

E-mail: [lowerwestchesterukuleleclub@hotmail.com](mailto:lowerwestchesterukuleleclub@hotmail.com)

### **Long Island Ukulele Strummers Club**

Plainview, New York

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/islandukeclub>



# Ukulele Clubs continued

## North Carolina

### Charlotte Area Ukulele Jam

contact: [ukulelerobby@gmail.com](mailto:ukulelerobby@gmail.com)

First Saturday of each month. 3 - 5 PM At "Aloha Snow"

[www.alohasnow.com](http://www.alohasnow.com)

## Ohio

### COUP (Central Ohio Ukulele Peeps)

<http://www.meetup.com/BuckeyeUkuleleSociety/>

### Jumping Flea Night Monthly uke strum-along

Cleveland Heights, Ohio. LAST Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30 at Coventry Village Library.

Free & open to everyone!! Contact: [melissaogrady@ymail.com](mailto:melissaogrady@ymail.com)

## Oklahoma

### Tulsa Ukulele Club

Meeting the needs of ukulele players in the greater Tulsa area

[tulsaukes.blogspot.com](http://tulsaukes.blogspot.com)

contact via e-mail: [rskjrmall@gmail.com](mailto:rskjrmall@gmail.com)

## Oregon

### Portland Ukulele Association

<http://www.pdxuke.org>

[pua@teleport.com](mailto:pua@teleport.com)

Making music together since 2001!

## Pennsylvania

**Allegheny Ukulele Kollektive** (Look for us on Facebook!) New uke group taking shape. Hoping for twice monthly jams and sing-alongs for all levels.

Hollidaysburg/Altoona, Pennsylvania, Contact: Steve [kss15@psu.edu](mailto:kss15@psu.edu)

### Scranton Ukulele Network

Meets 1st Fridays 6PM-Group Strum & Open Mic

Scranton Music Works/Gallucci Music School 207 N Washington Ave, Scranton

### Steel City Ukuleles, Regent Square

[www.steelcityukuleles.com](http://www.steelcityukuleles.com)

## South Carolina

### Lowcountry Strummers Ukulele Club

Charleston, SC metro area.

We meet second Thursday of the month. All are Welcome.

[www.lowcountrystrummers.com](http://www.lowcountrystrummers.com) e-mail [lowcountrystrummers@gmail.com](mailto:lowcountrystrummers@gmail.com)

## Texas

# Ukulele Clubs continued

Robert S. Sparkman  
sparky.judy@tx.rr.com

**Lone Star Ukulele Club (in North Dallas)**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestarukuleles>

**The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters**  
Go to [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) and search The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters to join the group. Lots of fun events and jams!

**CHUG - Coffee House Ukulele Gang**  
Fort Worth, Texas

This wild west ukulele gang meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.  
Contact Steve for more info. ([steve\\_w\\_williams@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_w_williams@yahoo.com))

## Vermont

**Vermont Ukulele Society**  
email: [vyhna@sover.net](mailto:vyhna@sover.net)  
Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

## Virginia

**Virginia Ukulele Club - Vienna, Virginia**  
Meeting twice a month. All ages and levels of ability welcome.  
Contact: Ben Farrington - [ukeclub@yahoo.com](mailto:ukeclub@yahoo.com)

**Hawai'i State Society**  
Falls Church, VA.  
Contact: Carol Takafuji - [itaka2u@yahoo.com](mailto:itaka2u@yahoo.com)

## Washington

**Seattle Ukulele Players Association (SUPA)**  
[www.seattleukulele.org/](http://www.seattleukulele.org/)

**Cowlitz Ukulele Association**  
Longview, WA. 98626  
[CowUke@yahoo.com](mailto:CowUke@yahoo.com)

## Wisconsin

**CheezLand Uke Band - [JoeSexton@aol.com](mailto:JoeSexton@aol.com)**  
Website: [CheezLandUkeBand.com](http://CheezLandUkeBand.com)  
Tuesday night at Leithold Music in downtown La Crosse, WI.  
Beginners, Mid-Level, Advanced Players



# Ukulele Clubs continued

## Canada

STRING ALONG UKULELE CLUB  
DUNDAS ONTARIO CANADA  
[www.stringalongukulele.ca](http://www.stringalongukulele.ca)

Nanaimo Ukulele Circle - Nanaimo, BC, Canada  
[www.ukecircle.com](http://www.ukecircle.com) e-mail: [ukecircle@gmail.com](mailto:ukecircle@gmail.com)

## UK England

**Ukulele Society of Great Britain**  
43 Finstock Road, London W10 6LU  
Tel: 020 8960 0459  
Email: [m@gicman.com](mailto:m@gicman.com)

**Cambridge Ukulele Co-operative [Cuckoo]**  
Meet alternate Sundays 2pm-6pm  
The Portland Arms Cambridge CB4 3BAIf  
If you're cuckoo about ukes come and join us.  
<http://www.myspace.com/cambridgeukuleleclub>

**Ukulele Philharmonic Orchestra of Sudbury**  
Tuesdays evenings from 7.00pm  
The Institute, Station Road, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2SP  
Beginners Welcome

**Uke Wednesday Jam**  
Every Wednesday 7 till closing Downstairs @ The Royal George  
Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EA, U.K.  
contact: Quinc email: [qnc@qnctv.com](mailto:qnc@qnctv.com)  
<http://ukeweds.intodit.com>

**Tune Army Ukulele Club**  
The Bay Horse, Front Street, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EF  
Meeting first Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:30  
<http://tunearmy.blogspot.com/>

**UkeGlos Ukulele Club**  
Meets Every Mondays every month, 8.00pm  
The Exmouth Arms, Bath Rd  
Cheltenham, GL53 7LX

Wooden & banjo ukes welcome. All levels of playing ability & song styles. For full details visit: [www.ukeglos.co.uk](http://www.ukeglos.co.uk)  
<http://www.ukeglos.co.uk>

**Ukulele Sundays host:Tim Smithies**  
email: [tim@timsmithies.com](mailto:tim@timsmithies.com)  
I host a Ukulele Jam session on Sunday evenings in Sheffield UK called 'Ukulele Sundays' All welcome - 8.30pm onwards. Riverside Cafe Bar.

# Ukulele Clubs continued

<http://www.ukulelesundays.co.uk>.

## **"Brighton ukulele Sundays"**

Meet first Sunday of the month at the Brunswick Pub in Hove East Sussex UK.  
Visit Facebook Brighton Ukulele Sundays for more details.

## **Leicester Ukulele Club**

All welcome, First Monday of the month,  
Upstairs at Babalas Bar, Queens Road, Leicester  
Contact: [dave.davies1@virgin.net](mailto:dave.davies1@virgin.net) or [mark@littleredtruck.co.uk](mailto:mark@littleredtruck.co.uk)

## **Herts of Uke Ukulele Club**

Every 4th Sunday - 6.30pm onwards.  
Meet at The Doctors Tonic, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PR

All Players Welcome

Websites: <http://sites.google.com/site/hertsouke/>  
email: [hertsouke@gmail.com](mailto:hertsouke@gmail.com)

## **Luton, UK**

We meet once a fortnight at Greenbank Music Village,  
Greenbank Hal, Cobden Street, Luton, LU2 0NG  
Anyone interested can give us a call:

Keith 07745 613931  
Scott 07976 895067  
Gerry 07785 117029  
<http://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleworkshopinluton/>

**South Hampton Uke Jam** - meets every two weeks... year 'round  
[www.southamptonukulelejam.co.uk](http://www.southamptonukulelejam.co.uk)

## **Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express**

meets 2nd and last thursday of the month. contact [simonb250@hotmail.com](mailto:simonb250@hotmail.com)  
[ukuleleexpress.blogspot.com](http://ukuleleexpress.blogspot.com)

**Sedgley Strummers - See the website for details**  
[www.ukulelemad.com](http://www.ukulelemad.com)

## **'Colwyn Bay Ukulele Group**

We usually on Saturday morning. All players welcome.  
email [sbach1@live.co.uk](mailto:sbach1@live.co.uk)

## **People of Lewisham's Ukulele Club (PLUC)**

Friendly, inclusive community uke group welcomes all levels of players:  
beginners, improvers & advanced. Meets every Tuesday eve 8pm - 10pm  
The Lewis Club, Lewisham Hospital, Lewisham High St, SE13 6LH.  
<http://lewishamukulele.wordpress.com> Simon at [pluc09@gmail.com](mailto:pluc09@gmail.com)

**TimeBugs Banjo/Ukulele Group**

# Ukulele Clubs continued

meets fortnightly at The Derby Engineers Club,  
Osmaston Road, Derby  
DE23 8JX  
All enquiries to: [timebugs@gmail.com](mailto:timebugs@gmail.com)

## **The Derby Ukulele Club**

Meets fortnightly at The Derby Engineers Club,  
Osmaston Road, Derby  
DE23 8JX  
All enquiries to: [derbyukes@gmail.com](mailto:derbyukes@gmail.com)

## **Ireland**

### **UKULELE IRELAND**

[ukulele@ireland.com](mailto:ukulele@ireland.com)

Irish ukulele club meets on the second saturday of each month. Players from all over Ireland. Ukeplayers of all levels welcome. If you are a visiting uke player please feel free to come along. The meetups are held at 2, eden park, Dunlaoire, Co. Dublin.

### **Ukuholics**

[truepants@eircom.net](mailto:truepants@eircom.net)

The Ukuholics are based in the Irish Midlands and meet once a month. Players of any or no ability will fit in nicely!  
Visit [www.ukuholics.webs.com](http://www.ukuholics.webs.com) for more info

## **Scotland**

### **Monday Ukearist**

Edinburgh's very own ukulele gathering. We gather once a fortnight on Mondays from 7 to 10(pm!) at Mackenzie School of English near the foot of Leith Walk

6 John's Place,  
EH6 7EP

Contact: John Hobson, +44 (0)7940 513969, [jhobson@gmail.com](mailto:jhobson@gmail.com)  
<http://ukearist.co.uk>

## **South Wales**

### **Ukulele Nights**

Cardiff's Ukulele Jam Session and Cabaret  
Meet Mondays 8 p.m. at assorted venues.  
Visit [www.ukenights.org.uk](http://www.ukenights.org.uk) for full listings and updates.  
Contact: Nick Canham [witt29-ukenights1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:witt29-ukenights1@yahoo.co.uk) 07971 - 719626

### **The Swansea Ukulele Club**

Meeting Tuesday evenings from the 7th February 2012  
email: [r.gent@ntlworld.com](mailto:r.gent@ntlworld.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/SwanseaUkuleleClub/>

**Porthcawl Ukulele Band.** Meets 8pm on Wednesdays at the Seahorse pub,



# Ukulele Clubs continued

South Road, Porthcawl. [www.porthcawlukuleleband.org.uk](http://www.porthcawlukuleleband.org.uk)

## France

**L'UkeDunum - Ukulele Club of Lyon**

Website: <http://lukedunum.wordpress.com>

email=[lukedunum@gmail.com](mailto:lukedunum@gmail.com)

## Germany

**Ukulele Club of Germany**

[info@ukulelenclub.de](mailto:info@ukulelenclub.de)

[www.ukulelenclub.de](http://www.ukulelenclub.de) (home page)

[www.ukulelenboard.de](http://www.ukulelenboard.de) (message board)

**Deutscher Ukulelenclub**

c/o Raimund Sper

Korneliusstrasse 1

D-47441 Moers

tel. +49/2841-394837

fax + 49/2841-394836

[www.ukulelenclub.de](http://www.ukulelenclub.de)

## Holland

**Ukulele Jamboree in Rotterdam** - hosted by 'The Uke Box'

The night is comprised of a workshop, performances & open mic.

To Join the Mailing List send an e-mail to: [guaranteed2swoon@gmail.com](mailto:guaranteed2swoon@gmail.com)

To read more about this and our other ukulele projects go to:

<http://www.ukulele-interventie.blogspot.com> (Dutch)

Visit my personal blog spot and click on 'Ukulele' under "Contents" (English)

<http://www.shelleyrickey.blogspot.com>

**'Uke & D'Uke'**

<http://ukeandduke.blogspot.com/> (in Dutch)

**Note:** Shelley has an Etsy store where you can find ukulele related items for sale, check it out: <http://www.thejumpingfleamarket.etsy.com>

## France

**Ukulele Club of Paris**

Thursday starting 7:30 PM

Meetings are announced on the website King David Ukulele Station at this URL:

<http://www.ukulele.fr>

**C.O.U.L.E.**

Club Olympique de Ukulélé de Lille et des Environs

<http://www.COULE.fr>

# Ukulele Clubs continued

"Stay cool, come and play with the C.O.U.L.E."

## **VSalele**

Association des Ukuleliste de Valbonne Sophia Antipolis (Alpes Maritimes)

Visit [www.vsalele.org](http://www.vsalele.org) for more info

"Ukulele Social Club de Picardie"

Amiens (France)

See more here : <http://www.ukulpic.fr/>

Clermont-Ferrand call "Le BOUC" (in french, Bougnat Original Ukulele Club).

Our website is : <http://le-bouc.blogspot.com/>

## **Spain**

### **Club del Ukelele de Madrid (SPAIN)**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=131466486122>

"Para todos los aficionados al ukelele que viven en Madrid"

"For all the ukelele fans living at Madrid"

Now preparing their first festival and meeting very soon -stay tuned!

## **Australia**

### **Sunnybank Ukulele Players**

Meets every 3rd wed of each month sunnybank, Brisbane , Australia

Contact for more information- [info@trevorgollagher.com](mailto:info@trevorgollagher.com)

## **Thailand**

### **Ukulele Lovers Club, Bangkok Thailand**

[www.facebook.com/ukuleleloversclub](http://www.facebook.com/ukuleleloversclub)

Meeting once a month - open to the public.



## USA

### **The San Diego Ukulele Festival**

13-14 October, 2012

<http://www.sandiegoukefestival.com/>

### **Milwaukee Ukulele Festival**

October 20th, 2012 9am to 10pm

The Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, WI for more info visit:

<http://sunsetplayhouse.com/tickets/index.php> Tickets: \$80 dollars / full day pass.

### **Blackwater Ukulele Festival**

Blackwater Ukulele Festival

Saturday September 14, 2013 9:00am- 5:00pm

Vendors, Boat Jams, Workshops, Free Concert, Open mic

Cypress Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina

[festival.charlestonhotshots.com](http://festival.charlestonhotshots.com)

Milwaukee Ukulele Festival - October 19, 2013

at the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove WI.

Jamming, Vendors, Raffle, Socializing, Workshops, Concerts and more! With artists Lil' Rev, The Canote Brothers, Aaron Nicole Keim, John Nicholson, Danielle Ate The Sandwich, Seeso, The Revomatics, The Uke Crazy Kids Club, and more!

## Belgium

Ukulele Zaza (Belgium) [www.myspace.com/ukulelezaza](http://www.myspace.com/ukulelezaza)

## France

Marie Darling (France) [www.myspace.com/mariedarling](http://www.myspace.com/mariedarling)

Patti Plinko and her Boy (UK)

[www.myspace.com/pattiplinkoandherboy](http://www.myspace.com/pattiplinkoandherboy)

Les Ukulélé Boyz (France) [www.myspace.com/ukuleleboys47](http://www.myspace.com/ukuleleboys47)

## United Kingdom

### **A Grand Northern Ukulele Festival – Press Release**

Pontefract Town Hall, Pontefract, West Yorkshire – October 12 & 13, 2013

Tickets are available at [www.northernuke.com](http://www.northernuke.com)

For more information, contact [hello@northernuke.com](mailto:hello@northernuke.com)

[www.twitter.com/northernuke](http://www.twitter.com/northernuke)

[www.facebook.com/northernuke](http://www.facebook.com/northernuke)

Contact:

[ukejamnz@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:ukejamnz@yahoo.co.nz)

Counting Down to the Worlds 1st  
Ukulele Karaoke Jam.

Lyrics and Chords Synched to  
Tune Progression.

Projected onto L A R G E  
Screen.

30 Days and Counting to Worlds  
1st Ukulele Karaoke Jam.

September 23rd.

Sharks Sports Bar

Orewa.Auckland.

New Zealand.

3 thru 7:30

Licensed Venue. Meals.

Ample Parking.

Bring Your Ukes!

*Hi uke-a-bangers--*

*I just want you to know about the  
Walker Creek Music Camp coming  
up October 11-14, Columbus Day  
weekend, in Marin County.*

*There's a 3-day ukulele class taught by  
Mark Nelson. Registration is now open  
for the camp. It's a great opportunity  
to immerse yourself in the music for a  
long weekend. Meet other musicians,  
learn, play, and enjoy the beautiful of  
the place. place, and have a good  
time.*

*This is the first time we're including  
ukulele as a main class. I hope you  
can consider coming! Feel free to  
contact me if you have any questions.*

Ingrid Noyes, director  
Walker Creek Music Camp

Contact Info:

415-663-1342 (after 9 a.m.)

More info about the camp:

[www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org](http://www.walkercreekmusiccamp.org)





I thought Ukulele Player readers would be interested to hear that Jake Shimabukuro will be appearing live at our show on September 7 and September 8 in London, UK.

Details of the show and how to book tickets can be found at this URL:

[www.londonacousticguitarshow.com](http://www.londonacousticguitarshow.com)

We're really excited that Jake will be performing live and giving a masterclass, it's the first time the show has showcased the ukulele and we've had an amazing response since we made the announcement.

All the best,

Sara Farmanfarmai  
Marketing Manager  
Blaze Publishing Ltd

## Essential Links from the World-Wide-Web

### **Brudda Bu's Ukulele Heaven**

<http://www.geocities.com/~ukulele/index.html>

If you'd like to learn the history of some of ukulele's greatest players, this site is absolutely essential.

### **Ukulelia - <http://www.ukulelia.com/>**

The World's Greatest Ukulele WebLog" Need I say more?

### **Ukulele Cosmos - <http://www.ukulelecosmos.com>**

One of the hottest ukulele forums on the web. Don't Miss It!

### **Ukulele Underground**

<http://www.ukuleleunderground.com/forum/index.php>

Another really popular ukulele forum, lots of Hawaiian players and folks from the West Coast of the Mainland USA.

### **Flea Market Music - <http://www.fleamarketmusic.com/default.asp>**

This is Jumpin' Jim Beloff's website. He has lots of great resources and an excellent forum as well. You can buy Flukes and Fleas there, too. Jim also has lots of songbooks, DVDs, and other great stuff there.

### **UkeLadyMusic - <http://www.ukeladymusic.com/>**

Auntie Noel runs a really great shop. Her passion is ukulele and it shows.

Contact Us: phone 214-924-0408

or email [noel.tardy@yahoo.com](mailto:noel.tardy@yahoo.com)

### **Kiwi Ukulele**

New Zealand's Ukulele Companion

<http://www.kiwiukulele.co.nz/>

### **Bounty Music**

<http://www.ukes.com/>

Bounty Music Maui

111 Hana Hwy. #105

Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

open 9 :00 to 6:00 Monday thru Saturday \* Sunday 10:00 to 4:00

Phone: (808) 871-1141

Fax: (808) 871-1138

# Online Resources

<http://www.tikiking.com>

[tikiking@tikiking.com](mailto:tikiking@tikiking.com)

comment=Website listing:

Home of Tiki King Ukuleles since 1999. lots of neat Ukulele stuff, such as the webs largest Ukulele makers database, Custom Hand Built Tiki King Ukuleles, and ukulele stuff to see and buy. We have Flukes and Fleas, Ukulele Art Gallery, Ukulele classes, chord charts, CD's and more!

## **Bonsai Garden Orchestra**

email: [info@bgo.nu](mailto:info@bgo.nu)

Webside: <http://www.bgo.nu>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/bonsaigardenorchestra>

World Music Festival "glattundverkehrt" on july 22nd .

[www.glattundverkehrt.at](http://www.glattundverkehrt.at)

## **UkePics**

Assorted Ukulele Picture Exposé

<http://www.ukepics.com/>

## **How High The Moon Publishing**

Publisher of the Jam Book "Play Well with Other"

9826 James A. Reed Rd. Kansas City, MO 64134

816-965-0183 or 816-728-6936

<http://www.moonbookstore.com>

## **GoChords**

<http://www.gochords.com>

"GoChords™ is an easy-to-use writing and playing tool with moveable chord tablature!"

## **Live 'Ukulele**

Tabs, lessons, and info for 'ukulele enthusiasts

<http://liveukulele.com/>

<http://www.gotaukulele.com>

<http://ukulele-perspective.com>

<http://ukeofcarl.com/> - lots of free tabs and video.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/418162731550808/>  
(Keep Ukulele Playing Live"